REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 21-24 have been withdrawn, and claims 1-20 are presented for examination and stand rejected. In particular, claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being directed to subject matter that would have been obvious from Anderson et al. in combination with Yoakum et al. Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being directed to subject matter that would have been obvious in view of Anderson et al., Yoakum et al. and in further view of the "Official Notice" set forth in the Office Action. The Examiner is respectfully asked to reconsider the application and withdraw the rejections in view of the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-7 are directed to a computer-implemented method for remote access to files for a "local agent module." Claims 8-14 are directed to a computer-readable medium including instructions for causing one or more processes to perform acts for remote file access for a "local agent module." Claims 15-20 are directed to a "local agent."

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method in which a local agent polls a server for a task request, receives a task request from the server, executes the task, causes a file to be uploaded to the server (or a different server), waits for a schedule timer to expire, and then repeats the above acts. Similar acts are recited by independent claim 8. Independent claim 15 is directed to a local agent comprising a task processor for polling a server for a task request, a schedule timer for controlling a task processor polling interval, and one or more protocol stacks for communicating over a network with the server.

The primary reference cited in the office action, Anderson et al., is cited by the Examiner as disclosing all of the acts of claims 1 and 8, with the exception of the schedule timer and waiting for the schedule timer to expire before repeating the recited sequence of acts. Yoakum et al. is cited as teaching these latter aspects of the invention. However, applicants' undersigned attorney respectfully urges the Examiner to reconsider his reading of the prior art, and specifically to explain how the primary reference, Anderson et al., can be read as describing the sequence of acts including "polling a server for a task request," and then receiving a task request from the server and executing a task indicated by a task request, etc. Where does Anderson et al. describe the use of a "local agent" and the acts of "polling a
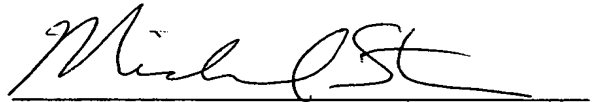
server for a task request"? It seems that Anderson et al. describe an e-mail-based system in which document requests are e-mailed over a network and automatically generate a response e-mail message with the attached document, and automatically transmitting the response e-mail message to a destination address. This is different from the method and system recited by applicants' claims.

For the foregoing reasons, the Examiner is respectfully urged to reconsider the application and to withdraw the rejection. Applicants' undersigned attorney would welcome a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss any issues that may remain after entry of the present amendment. Applicants' attorney can be contacted directly at 206.332.1384.

Respectfully submitted

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